

system and the transmission facilities may be ATM telecommunication apparatus suitable for high speed broad band communication so that a video on-demand service (for example, disclosed in Nikkei Electronics, No. 574, pages 102-107, Feb. 15, 1993) which has recently been demanded in the CATV service can be readily realized on the public telecommunication network without requiring dedicated facilities and economic information providing service is attained.

What is claimed is:

1. A communication method for providing information in an intelligent network including a transmission layer having a user terminal and a switching system and an intelligent layer issuing a connection command of a line to said transmission layer, said communication method comprising the steps of:

registering into at least one database an identification number of the user terminal, an identification number of an equipment for performing an information providing service, and a time to receive the information providing service input, by a user of said user terminal, said at least one database is included in said transmission layer or said intelligent layer,

collating a current time with said time to receive the information providing service registered in said at least one database by a timer circuit provided in said transmission layer or said intelligent layer where said at least one database is located; and

automatically controlling a connection between said user terminal and said equipment for performing the information providing service when said current time corresponds to said time to receive said information providing service registered in said at least one database as indicated by said collating step.

2. A communication system for providing information in an intelligent network including a transmission layer having a user terminal and a switching system and an intelligent layer issuing a connection command of a line to said transmission layer, said communication system comprising:

a first controller for registering at least one database into at least one database an identification number of the user terminal, an identification number of an equipment for performing an information providing service, and a time to receive the information providing service input, by a user of said user terminal, said at least one database is included in said transmission layer or said intelligent layer,

a second controller for collating a current time with said time to receive the information providing service registered in said at least one database by a timer circuit provided in said transmission layer or said intelligent layer where said at least one database is located; and

a third controller for automatically controlling a connection between said user terminal and said equipment for performing the information providing service when said current time corresponds to said time to receive said information providing service registered in said at least one database as indicated by said second controller.

3. A method of conducting an information providing service in a network comprising the steps of:

storing, in a database at an information providing service, an identifier of an information provider terminal and a service start time indicating a time to start an information providing service, said identifier and said service start time being received from a user of the information providing service;

comparing a current time with said service start time stored in said database by a timer provided in the network;  
and

providing an information from said information provider terminal to said user through said network based on said identifier stored in said database, when said service start time stored in said database corresponds to said current time.

4. A method according to claim 3, further comprising the steps of:

comparing said current time with a service end time by said timer in said network; and

stopping the providing of said information from said information provider terminal when said service end time corresponds to said current time.

5. A method of conducting an information providing service in a network which includes a switch and a controller having a timer, and a database, said method comprising the steps of:

storing, in a database at an information providing service, an identifier of an information provider terminal connected to said network and a service start time indicating a time to start an information providing service, said identifier and said service start time being received from a user of the information providing service;

comparing a current time with said service start time stored in said database by a timer; and

providing an information from said information provider terminal to said user through said switch based on said identifier stored in said database, when said service start time stored in said database corresponds to said current time.

6. A method according to claim 5, further comprising the steps of:

comparing said current time with a service end time by said timer; and

stopping the providing of said information when said service end time corresponds to said current time.

7. A method of conducting an information providing service in a network which includes and a controller having timer, and a database, said method comprising the steps of:

storing, in a database at an information providing service, an identifier of an information provider terminal connected to said network and a service start time indicating a time to start an information providing service to a user terminal connected to said network, said identifier and said service start time being received from a user of said network;

comparing a current time with said service start time stored in said database by said timer; and

controlling said switch to provide an information from said information provider terminal to said user terminal based on said identifier stored in said database, when said service start time corresponds to said current time.

8. A method according to claim 7, further comprising the steps of:

comparing said current time with a service end time by said timer; and

controlling said switch to stop providing the information when said service end time corresponds to said current time.

9. A method of conducting an information providing service from an information provider terminal to a user terminal through a network, said comprising the steps of:

registering, in a database at an information providing service, an identifier of said information provider terminal and a service start time indicating a time to start said information providing service, said identifier and said service start time being received from a user of said information providing service;

comparing a current time with said service start time registered in said database by a timer provided in said network; and

providing an information from said information provider terminal to said user terminal through said network based on said identifier registered in said database, when said service start time corresponds to said current time.

10. A method according to claim 9, further comprising the steps of:

comparing said current time with a service end time by said timer; and

stopping the providing of information when said service end time corresponds to said current time.

11. A method according to claim 9, wherein said registering step comprises the step of:

registering an identifier of a user terminal.

12. A method of conducting an information providing service via an information provider terminal to a user terminal through a network which includes a switch, a timer and a database, said method comprising the steps of:

registering, at said database of an information providing service, an identifier of said information provider terminal and a service start time indicating a time to start an information providing service to said user terminal, said identifier and said service start time being received from a user of said information providing service;

comparing a current time with said service start time registered in said database by a timer; and

providing an information from said information provider terminal to said user terminal through said switch based on said identifier registered in said database, when said service start time corresponds to said current time.

13. A method according to claim 12, further comprising the steps of:

comparing said current time with a service end time by said timer; and

stopping the providing of information when said service end time corresponds to said current time.

14. A communication terminal comprising:

connection apparatus which connects said communication terminal to a network;

a memory which stores an identifier of an information provider terminal and a service start time indicating a time to start an information providing service;

a timer which counts a current time; and

a controller which compares said current time with said service start time, and requests connection with said information provider terminal through said network by use of said connection apparatus when said service start time corresponds to said current time.

15. A communication terminal according to claim 14, wherein said controller compares said current time with a service end time, and requests disconnection from said information provider terminal through said network by use of said connection apparatus when said service end time corresponds to said current time.